



Montana Drought Advisory Committee

**USDA NASS
Montana Field Office
Peggy Stringer
Director**

October 20, 2008



2008 Small Grain Summary

Crop	2008	2007
<u>Winter Wheat</u>		
Planted acres	2,600,000	2,240,000
Harvested acres	2,420,000	2,190,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	39.0	38.0
Production (bushels)	94,380,000	83,220,000
<u>Spring Wheat</u>		
Planted	2,550,000	2,450,000
Harvested	2,480,000	2,400,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	24.0	23.0
Production (bushels)	59,520,000	55,200,000



Small Grain Summary Continued

Crop	2008	2007
<u>Durum Wheat</u>		
Planted	590,000	480,000
Harvested	570,000	475,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	19.0	24.0
Production (bushels)	10,830,000	11,400,000
<u>Barley</u>		
Planted	860,000	900,000
Harvested	740,000	720,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	51.0	44.0
Production (bushels)	37,740,000	31,680,000



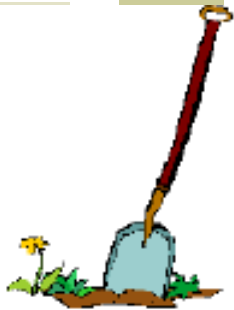
Small Grain Summary Continued

Crop	2008	2007
<u>Oats</u>		
Planted	60,000	75,000
Harvested	30,000	35,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	51.0	52.0
Production (bushels)	1,530,000	1,820,000



Topsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Month, Last Year & 5-Yr Average

October 12, 2008	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short – short	28%	37%	42%	51%
Adequate	66%	57%	54%	46%
Surplus	6%	6%	4%	3%



Subsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Month, Last Year & 5-Yr Average

October 12, 2008	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	44%	55%	66%	73%
Adequate	55%	43%	33%	26%
Surplus	1%	2%	1%	1%



Winter Wheat

Planting is almost complete.

**This year, better conditions for
winter wheat seeding then
last year.**

**More has germinated this year
than last year at this time.**



Winter Wheat Seeded and Emerged ahead of last year & 5 year average

October 12, 2008	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Winter wheat seeded	93%	88%	91%
emerged	56%	50%	49%



Range & Pasture Feed Condition Better than Last Year and 5-Year Average

October 14, 2008	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor - poor	32%	27%	34%	43%
Fair	35%	38%	39%	36%
Good	29%	29%	23%	18%
Excellent	4%	6%	4%	3%



Livestock Movement From Summer Ranges Ahead of Last year & 5-year Average

October 12, 2008	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Cattle	66%	56%	59%
Sheep	72%	61%	59%



Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed

October 12, 2008	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Cattle & calves	11%	9%	n/a
Sheep & lambs	8%	9%	n/a



To Sum It Up

- ◆ Topsoil and Subsoil Conditions have improved from last month and are better than last year & the five-year average.
- ◆ Winter wheat received good moisture to get off to an excellent start.
- ◆ Pasture & range feed condition better than last year & the 5-year average.
- ◆ Overall 2008 was a good year for small grain production.

Eat chocolate because today is my last drought meeting!

- ◆ After 32.5 years with USDA – NASS
14 years as Director in Montana
- ◆ I am retiring!

